

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A system for delivering an in-home test device to a patient at the  
2 request of a physician, comprising:
  - 3 a user interface coupled to a network;
  - 4 a test ordering system coupled to the user interface;
  - 5 an order verification system;
  - 6 a database including patient, test and physician records;
  - 7 a shipping and retrieval system, coupled to the ordering system,  
8 delivering the test apparatus to the patient; and
  - 9 a result delivery system, delivering test results to the physician.
- 1 2. The system of claim 1 wherein the test ordering system comprises  
2 a call center.
- 1 3. The system of claim 1 wherein the user interface system comprises  
2 a World-Wide Web based interface.
- 1 4. The system of claim 1 wherein the shipping system comprises an  
2 interface to a commercial courier service.
- 1 5. The system of claim 1 wherein the verification system is housed at  
2 a physically different location from the user interface.
- 3 6. The system of claim 1 wherein the test ordering system includes a  
4 tracking system allowing authorized access to the test device status.
- 1 7. The system of claim 1 wherein the verification system includes an  
2 authorization routine interfacing with the database.

1       8.     The system of claim 1 wherein the verification system includes a  
2     user security hierarchy

1       9.     The system of claim 7 wherein the shipping and device retrieval  
2     system includes an interface to the database transferring shipping  
3     information to the database.

1       10.    The system of claim 1 further including a device return verification  
2     application, communicating with the logistics system.

1       11.    The system of claim 1 further including a data report generator.

2       12.    A system for delivering a home test unit to a patient upon the  
3     request of an authorized physician, comprising:

4              a test ordering system, including a telephone access system, a  
5     facsimile access system and a WWW access system;

6              a data management system coupled to the ordering system;

7              a test distribution and retrieval system coupled to the data  
8     management system; and

9              a test data distribution system, coupled to the data management  
10    system;

11              wherein the data management system further includes:

12                  an authorization system verifying the identity of the  
13     authorized physician;

14                  an order tracking system; and

15                  a device tracking system.

1       13.    The system of claim 12 wherein the ordering system includes a call  
2     center subsystem.

1       14. The system of claim 12 wherein the data management system  
2 includes at least one database containing patient and physician records.

1       15. The system of claim 14 wherein the at least one database includes  
2 device tracking information.

1       16. The system of claim 14 further including at least a second database  
2 separate from the first database containing a subset of records of said at  
3 least one database, and physically housed at a common courier service.

1       17. The system of claim 12 wherein the data management system  
2 includes a security application defining and identifying different levels of  
3 users accessing the system.

1       18. The system of claim 17 wherein the user levels include members  
2 and non-members.

1       19. The system of claim 18 wherein the user levels include patient  
2 members, patient non-members, consumer members, physician members,  
3 and physician non-members.

1       20. The system of claim 14 wherein the test distribution and retrieval  
2 system includes use of a common courier.

1       21. The system of claim 20 wherein the system includes an interface  
2 application between the at least one database and the common courier  
3 service.

1       22. The system of claim 21 wherein each test unit includes a unique  
2 identification code which is exchanged between the courier service and the  
3 interface application.

1       23. The system of claim 12 wherein said test data distribution system  
2 includes a result retrieval system coupled to the test device when the test  
3 unit is with the patient.

1       24. The system of claim 12 wherein said test data distribution system  
2 includes a result retrieval system coupled to the test device when the test  
3 device is returned to the distribution and retrieval system.

1       25. A method for delivering a test unit to a patient and distributing  
2 results of the test, comprising:

3              (a) receiving an order from a physician for distribution of a test  
4 to a patient via a computer coupled to a network;

5              (b) verifying the authorization of the physician to place the order  
6 and the patient to receive the order;

7              (c) storing tracking information regarding a test unit shipped to  
8 the patient;

9              (d) shipping the test unit to the patient;

10             (e) retrieving test results from the unit; and

11             (f) distributing the test results.

1       26. The method of claim 25 wherein said step (a) includes receiving an  
2 order via a telephone.

1       27. The method of claim 25 wherein said step (a) includes receiving an  
2 order via a secure World Wide Web interface.

1       28.   The method of claim 25 wherein said step (a) includes receiving an  
2       order via a facsimile.

1       29.   The method of claim 25 wherein said step (c) comprises providing  
2       a database including a test unit identification number and patient  
3       information, and correlating the test unit information number and patient  
4       information during shipment and retrieval.

1       30.   The method of claim 29 wherein said step (c) further includes  
2       storing, in said database, shipping information including a transmittal date  
3       to said patient.

1       31.   The method of claim 25 further including a step, following said step  
2       (d), of retrieving the test unit from the patient.

1       32.   The method of claim 25 further including a step, following said step  
2       (e), of retrieving the test unit from the patient.

1       33.   The method of claim 25 wherein said step (f) comprises:  
2           (f1)   determining a user authorized to receive the test results and  
3           transmitting the test results to the authorized user.

1       34.   The method of claim 25 wherein said step (f) comprises transmitting  
2       the test results via a secure World Wide Web connection.

1       35.   The method of claim 25 wherein said step (f) comprises transmitting  
2       the test results by facsimile to an authorized recipient.

1       36.   A system for delivering a medical test to a patient and distributing  
2       the results of the test to a physician, comprising:

3           a World-Wide Web based portal including a secure test ordering  
4        interface;  
5           a database order processing system coupled to the portal;  
6           a logistics system interface; and  
7           a result distribution system.

1     37. The system of claim 36 wherein said order processing system  
2     includes a database including physician, patient, test and device records.

1     38. The system of claim 37 including a database record creation  
2     application adding said records to said database.

1     39. The system of claim 36 wherein said logistics system interface  
2     includes a shipping demand order output.

1     40. The system of claim 36 wherein said logistics system interface  
2     includes a receipt application input accepting shipping numbers, device ID  
3     number, and a test identifier number.

1     41. The system of claim 36 further including a receiving and testing  
2     system accepting returned test units.

1     42. The system of claim 41 wherein said receiving and testing system  
2     includes a refurbishing facility.

1     43. The system of claim 36 wherein said result distribution system  
2     includes a verification sub-system to determine authorized recipients for  
3     test results.

1       44. The system of claim 43 wherein the result distribution system  
2 includes a report generator.

1       45. A World-Wide Web-based portal interface to a system for  
2 delivering a medical test to a patient and distributing the results of the test  
3 to a physician, comprising:

4              a secure test ordering interface; and  
5              a secure test result retrieval interface.

1       46. The portal of claim 45 wherein the secure test ordering interface is  
2 coupled to a system for delivering a medical test to a patient including a  
3 shipping system coupled to the secure test ordering interface; a verification  
4 system coupled to the secure test ordering interface; a retrieval system;  
5 and a verification system.

1       47. The portal of claim 46 wherein said secure test result retrieval  
2 interface is coupled to a result delivery system, which includes an  
3 authorization application and a patient and physician database.